

[Date]

Dear [Name],

How thrilled I am to welcome you to the North Carolina Conference School of Ministry! What a privilege—what a responsibility—to be called of God. Congratulations on behalf of myself and the other members of the School of Ministry Committee for boldly stepping out in faith to embrace your calling and enter into ministry training. While we see the rigors, we also see the joys that await you. We understand the sacrifices and the hard work you are committing yourself to, but we also know that you will grow, learn, and build invaluable relationships while in this program. So we are expecting great things to happen both *to* you and *through* you as a consequence of the time you are about to invest with us.

With this letter you will find four important documents:

1. **The SOM Information Packet for 2017-2018** – Please read this document carefully and keep it readily available while you are enrolled in the SOM. It contains all the pertinent information you need to know about our procedures and policies (class times, costs, attendance expectations, credits needed for each of the three levels of ministry credentials, information about food and lodging, etc).
2. **The SOM Class Schedule for the 2017-2018 Academic Year** – Our expectation is that new students will commit to attending class each month until finished. Of course, life does sometimes get in the way. But please take time to save these dates on your calendar now. If you are currently serving in a ministry capacity in a church (paid or volunteer), please share these dates with your pastor now as well.
3. **The Registration Form for Fall Semester 2017** – Please complete and return this form. There are two courses offered from August through November. You may only take one course each month. Beginning students will choose the 100-level course for these four months. Beginning in December we offer only one course each month, and all students (first-year and returning) will take that class together.
4. **J. Lee Grady’s “10 Occupational Hazards of Ministry”** – We offer this article in the spirit of “full disclosure.” The Bible cautions us to “consider the costs.” While the Information Packet lays out the financial costs per course, we want you to consider the true price of the commitment you are making.

Our first class is August 18-19. Class will begin promptly at 7:00. Check-in begins at 5:30. All new students should plan to be in Falcon earlier that afternoon for a 15-20 minute individual interview with the SOM Committee. The primary purpose of our time together will be to make sure you are comfortable with the procedures and expectations of the SOM. Our goal is to make sure you get off to a solid start. We will contact you later in the Summer to set an exact time for your meeting. In the meantime, you may address any SOM questions to Mrs. Sheila Oglesby at soglesby@nciphc.com.

One request: Please look me up during Annual Conference or Camp Meeting in August and introduce yourself. Or look up my Administrative Assistant, Rev. Betty Rogers. We are so looking to forward meeting you face-to-face.

For the Kingdom,

Dan Woods

Director, North Carolina Conference School of Ministry (<http://nciphc.com/school-of-ministry>)